

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for analyzing a collaborative space, comprising:

analyzing the collaborative space by measuring interactivity metrics between users of the collaborative space to determine the nature and type of interactivity within the collaborative space; wherein the collaborative space is selected from the group consisting of Internet chat rooms, instant message exchanges, electronic mail exchanges, exchange databases, document management systems, and client-server collaborative software and email system databases; and

categorizing the collaborative space into one of a plurality of groups based on the nature and type of interactivity within the collaborative space, wherein the interactivity metrics include at least one of the following: a probability of response to postings by the users, an average time of response to the postings, an average thread duration corresponding to the postings, an average time between responses to the postings, and an average depth of a thread tree corresponding to the postings;

recommending the collaborative space from a group of collaborative spaces to a potential user based on desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user;

wherein at least one of the desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user measures the nature and type of interactivity between users in the collaborative space.

2. (Cancelled) .

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the interactivity metrics are measured periodically to determine how interactivity between the users changes over time.

8. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for analyzing collaborative spaces, comprising:

analyzing a plurality of collaborative spaces by measuring interactivity metrics between users of the plurality of collaborative spaces to determine the nature and type of interactivity within the collaborative space; wherein the plurality of collaborative spaces are selected from the group consisting of Internet chat rooms, instant message exchanges, electronic mail exchanges, exchange databases, document management systems, and client-server collaborative software and email system databases;

categorizing the plurality of collaborative spaces into one of a plurality of groups based on the nature and type of interactivity within the collaborative space, wherein the interactivity metrics include at least one of the following: a probability of response to postings by the users, an average time of response to the postings, an average thread duration corresponding to the

postings, an average time between responses to the postings, and an average depth of a thread tree corresponding to the postings;

receiving desired interactivity metrics from a potential user of the plurality of collaborative spaces;

wherein at least one of the desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user measures the nature and type of interactivity between users in each one of the plurality of collaborative spaces; and

recommending at least one of the categorized plurality of collaborative spaces from a group of collaborative spaces to the potential user based on the desired interactivity metrics.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the desired interactivity metrics are provided by the potential user via a user interface.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising wherein the interactivity metrics are measured periodically to determine how interactivity between the users changes over time.

13. (Currently amended) A computer implemented system having at least one computer for analyzing a collaborative space, including:

a metric analysis system for analyzing a plurality of collaborative spaces by measuring interactivity metrics between users of the collaborative spaces to determine the nature and type of interactivity within the collaborative space; wherein the plurality of collaborative spaces are selected from the group consisting of Internet chat rooms, instant message exchanges, electronic mail exchanges, exchange databases, document management systems and client-server collaborative software and email system databases; and wherein the interactivity metrics include at least one of the following: a probability of response to postings by the users, an average time of response to the postings, an average thread duration corresponding to the postings, an average time between responses to the postings and an average depth of a thread tree corresponding to the postings;

a categorization system for categorizing the plurality of collaborative spaces into one of a plurality of groups based on the nature and type of interactivity within the collaborative space; and

a recommendation system for recommending at least one of the categorized plurality of collaborative spaces from a group of collaborative spaces to a potential user based on desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user, wherein at least one of the desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user measures the nature and type of interactivity between users in each one of the plurality of collaborative spaces.

14. (Previously presented) The computer implemented system of claim 13, wherein the desired interactivity metrics are provided by the potential user via a user interface.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) The computer implemented system of claim 13, wherein the interactivity metrics are measured periodically to determine how interactivity between the users changes over time.

18. (Currently amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for analyzing a collaborative space, which when executed comprises:

program code for analyzing a plurality of collaborative spaces by measuring interactivity metrics between users of the collaborative spaces to determine the nature and type of interactivity within the collaborative space; wherein the plurality of collaborative spaces are selected from the group consisting of Internet chat rooms, instant message exchanges, electronic mail exchanges, exchange databases, document management systems and client-server collaborative software and email system databases; and wherein the interactivity metrics include at least one of the following: a probability of response to postings by the users, an average time of response to the postings, an average thread duration corresponding to the postings, an average time between responses to the postings and an average depth of a thread tree corresponding to the postings;

program code for categorizing the plurality of collaborative spaces into one of a plurality of groups based on the nature and type of interactivity within the collaborative space; and

program code for recommending at least one of the categorized plurality of collaborative spaces from a group of collaborative spaces to a potential user based on desired interactivity

metrics provided by the potential user, wherein at least one of the desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user measures the nature and type of interactivity between users in each one of the plurality of collaborative spaces.

19. (Original) The program product of claim 18, wherein the desired interactivity metrics are provided by the potential user via a user interface.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (Original) The program product of claim 18, wherein the interactivity metrics are measured periodically to determine how interactivity between the users changes over time.